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BULLETIN
OF THE
TORREY BOTANICAL CLUB.

Vol. IX.]

New York, July, 1882,

[No. 7.]

William Henry Leggett.

The decease of the late Editor of the BULLETIN calls for more than the passing notice which it has received in its columns. Mr. Leggett was born February 24th, 1816, and died on the morning of the 11th of April, 1882. Always a hard student, he graduated from Columbia College in 1837. Previous to that event he had already devoted himself to teaching—a calling which he pursued throughout life. By means of the kindness of his disposition he endeared himself to his pupils and led them on to regard the pursuit of knowledge as a pleasure instead of a task, and to aim at the attainments in classical knowledge which he himself possessed.

The following extract from a letter of one of his former pupils fitly illustrates the thoroughness which he always endeavored to instil into the minds of those committed to his charge: "How many there are of us all over the country who took from him our first lessons in accurate scholarship!"

He early became enamored with the study of botany, and the same feeling of thoroughness in his investigations of plant life exhibited itself in this as in his other studies. He was one of the founders of the Torrey Botanical Club, whose resolutions passed on the event of his decease express their sense of his scientific attainments and of his efficiency as a leader and co-laborer with them. His labors as the first Editor of the BULLETIN which was started by him as a private enterprise in 1870, and conducted as such until the year 1880, can, perhaps, only be fully appreciated by those who have had to perform similar work in the midst of other pressing duties. Day by day, following his occupation as an instructor with conscientious fidelity, he yet found time, too often taken from hours of needed rest, to write, collate and arrange for the press the matter of his journal. His success in the performance of his work was complete, but the harassing nature of his daily duties, and his failing strength finally compelled the relinquishment of its charge to other hands.

His private character was above reproach. Upright, conscientious and fearless, he was prompt to denounce wrong in every shape; yet was always considerate and charitable towards the shortcomings of others. In his social relations, his purity of character, his self-sacrificing spirit, his integrity and kindness of disposition endeared him to all.

The following extracts from letters written by those who had enjoyed his society for years show the cordial esteem in which they held him. One says: "I can hardly call to mind a single man that I have known with whom all my intercourse was so sweet and delightful as with him; * * * he was so sincere and guileless, so cheerful and bright." From another: "My botanical tramps with

him always had a classic seasoning—Greek as well as Botany—which made them doubly enjoyable; while his genial charity toward all men was a pattern and delight.” And from one other: “We had been friends for more than forty years * * * a more pure-minded and true-hearted man I have never known. * * * The world has lost in him a profound classical scholar, a most conscientious teacher, and an enthusiastic botanist.”

We shall close this brief biographical notice with one more extract from a letter of this old friend, touching in its sadness: “Our dear departed friend has left an aching void in the hearts of all who knew him, so kindly disposed and sincere in his affections he was, while gifted with extraordinary powers of promoting innocent mirth and true sociality. One cannot expect to meet with many such in a lifetime. Would he had been spared to us many years longer. I little thought I should outlive him.”

T. H.

A New Species of *Dichromena*.

By S. H. WRIGHT.

DICHROMENA REVERCHONI.—Culm nearly terete, smooth, slender, caespitose, four to nine inches high; leaves very narrow, smooth, acute, almost capillary, those of the culm $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches long; radical leaves 2 to 5 inches long, erect or falcate and spreading; involucre of two slender, unequal, acute bracts, dilated and whitened at the base, the longer being about 1 inch in length, and the shorter from $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch long; spikes 4 to 6, and $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ inch long, terminal, sessile, glomerate, scales variable, acute, obtuse, truncate, or even emarginate in the same spike, and *keeled, white*, with more or less ferruginous lines at the base when mature; achenia dull, strongly rugose, round-obovate, very convex, the dilated base of the short-beaked, compressed tubercle, decurrent on both edges to and around the base of the nut, giving it an annulated appearance there.

This species was discovered in 1879, and in one place only, by Mr. Julien Reverchon in a little swamp watered by a spring in limestone rocks, near Turtle Creek, Dallas County, Texas, and near Dallas. It flowered in June. Specimens collected in 1880, in flower only, were sent to me. A very few in fruit, collected in 1881, were obtained, from which the above description is given.

A List of Grasses collected by Mr. C. G. Pringle in Arizona and California, with descriptions of those species not already described in American Publications.*

20. *Hilaria rigida*. (*Pleuraphis rigida*, Thurber, Gram. Mex. Bound. ined.; Bot. Cal., ii., p. 293.)—Yuma, Arizona. June 25.

See note under “Change of Name” in March number of the BULLETIN.

21. *Imperata caudata*, Trin., Sl., t. 70, f. 1; Griseb., Flor. Br. W. Ind., p. 561; *Imperata arundinacea*, Vasey, in Bot. Wheeler Exped., p. 296.

Culms erect, terete, smooth, clothed at the base with numerous

* Continued from page 77.